



PARISH COUNCIL
Kempsey

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8
SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 11.30 PM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Plummer, Cllr Stevens, Cllr Clamp and Cllr Biddle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Claire Witton - Deputy Clerk

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Declarations of Interest**

- i. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
- ii. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature
- iii. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.

3. **Minutes:**

Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Environment meeting held on 19 June 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising:

4. **Rocky**

i. **To review the quotes to replace the east bridge**

- It was noted that 3 ITQ's had been sent out, with one supplier declining to quote and 2 further no responses. A further attempt to obtain via an enquiry form, to understand a reasonable cost for budgeting purposes, resulted in a supply only quotation, which was reviewed.
- A question arose as to whether Worcester County Council have a framework for fixed pricing and the office is to explore further.
- Reference was made to the Pershore boardwalk project, and a further action was noted to contact the clerk at Pershore to understand any suppliers that are being considered for their project.
- In relation to bridge materials, the committee considered using included composite, recycled plastic and hardwood with reference that recycled plastic had a 20-year warranty, 40–50 year expected service life, and it was noted as good practice to obtain samples from suppliers. Hardwood is preferred for aesthetic alignment with the natural surroundings particularly for the parapet and consideration for the recycled plastic for the decking boards.
- Durability, visual impact, and project management responsibilities were key concerns.
- Reuse of existing concrete supports was proposed, pending condition assessment.
- An artisan carpenter was considered for restoration work, though availability is limited (12-month wait).
- A comprehensive site visit was deemed necessary to assess feasibility and finalize scope.
- Emphasis was placed on appointing a single point of responsibility to streamline project execution.

- Estimated cost: approximately £17,000 plus installation.
 - A decision was made to proceed to meet with a local structural engineer to explore obtaining a design, to then create a further ITQ.
- ii. **To discuss the opportunity to apply for funding from FCC Community Fund to support with the cost of replacing the east bridge.**
There are two funding opportunities available via the FCC, and it was confirmed that we are only eligible to apply for the SWS community fund up to a value of £20,000. A simple draft submission was reviewed to act as the foundation for the application. It was agreed to take to full council the recommendation to apply for the full value, to part fund the supply and installation of the bridge. Letters of support to be collated via the office.
- iii. **Report on the condition of the retaining wall of Hatfield Brook on the west side of the rocky and discuss any next steps.**
Further clarity is required on extent of the damage, and it was agreed to inspect at the next reasonable opportunity.
- iv. **To review recent complaints of increased anti-social behaviour at the Rocky**
Complaints about antisocial behaviour, including human defecation and youth disturbances at the local rocky area, were raised. Committee Members acknowledged these as police matters.

5. Bus Shelters

- i. **To discuss the relocation and refurbishment of the existing unused bus shelter on Main Road adjacent to Centurion Drive**
Cllr Biddle presented a report on the condition of the unused bus shelter and proposed relocating it approximately 100 meters south to the hard-standing area near to the new bus stop named "Pixham Ferry Lane". The shelter is in good condition and should be repainted dark grey to refresh its appearance. Committee members discussed the need for permissions from highways authorities and possibly Taylor Wimpey, who might be approached to assist with the move. It was noted that Worcester County Council had previously declined to fund a new bus shelter.

6. Litter Bins

- i. **To review a new request for bin at Pixham Ferry Lane entrance to the Ham**
A new request for a litter bin at the Pixham Ferry Lane entrance was discussed, primarily concerning dog waste disposal. It was noted that only mixed-use bins are allowed, and dog waste bins require a volunteer team for maintenance. There were concerns about truck access for bin collection due to narrow lanes, and it was suggested to liaise with Malvern Hills District Council for clarification.

7. Notice Board

- i. **To review quotes to replace the noticeboard in front of the shop on Main Road**
Two quotes were reviewed for replacing the existing community notice board at the shop. Options varied in size, material quality, and features such as magnetic or push-pin backings, colour choices, and lock quality. The council favoured a higher-quality, powder-coated board with a felt background in a bottle green colour to blend with the environment. They also discussed implementing a policy for content management on the board to keep notices current and relevant. The estimated cost exceeded the council's spending limit, so the decision would be taken to full council for approval.

8. Playground

- i. **To discuss costs and benefits of replacing the matting at the gated entrance to Plovers Rise Playground**
The council considered installing safety matting in front of playground gates where grass wears away. The matting is compliant with safety standards and presents a modest cost. The council supported the principle of enhancing safety and appearance and planned to seek detailed costings and installation plans via the Lengthsman.

9. LKWP

- i. **Update from Cllr Clamp.**
- Cllr Clamp provided an update from the Love Kempsey Working party, noting they had

discussed a plan to make improvements to the Rocky and consideration given to open up a small amount of the canopy to allow light and position a picnic bench. It was agreed to contact a local tree surgeon for advice on sympathetic works before speaking with the Tree and Landscape Officer at Malvern Hills.

- Plans for the daffodil day in March are progressing.
- Reference was made to the item of a sign to act as a village focal point. Cllr Clamp has emailed MHDC for advice on planning and the office is to follow up on communication.

10. To review the Severn Trent Trees Outside Woodland Fund, to determine if an application can be submitted.

The deputy clerk advised that the Woodland Fund had closed for applications earlier than the published timeline due to allocation of funds. It was noted to add to the calendar for next year to explore further.

11. Any Other Business.

There was reference to ongoing maintenance tasks, including minor bench repairs and the need for a commercial-grade leaf blower.

Resolved for the clerk to progress with the purchase of a new leaf blower up to the value of £350.

Meeting Closed at 1.21pm

Signed Chairman..... Date.....

Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Biddle raised the matter of recent fly-tipping near the sewage treatment works on Ferry Lane and proposed a goodwill letter to Severn Trent, requesting installation of a security camera to benefit both the company and the community. It was noted that no security camera currently monitors the roadway, though some equipment cameras exist focused on the pumping station. The committee expressed support for sending a letter to Severn Trent to address this issue and enhance community safety.